



# 2026 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Montana Secretary of State

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2026																											
January							February							March							April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
May							June							July							August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4								1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																					30	31					
September							October							November							December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

## 2026 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION

DEADLINE	ACTIVITIES	REFERENCE
*Indicates postponement per <a href="#">1-1-307</a>		
Monday, November 3, 2025	Date by which a candidate for a legislative position must be a resident of Montana.	For at least one year next preceding the general election <a href="#">Article V, Part V, Sect. 4 MT Const</a>
Friday, January 30, 2026	Deadline for a new political party to submit a minor party petition to county election administrators.	No later than 4 weeks before the final date for filing the petition with the SOS (February 27) <a href="#">13-10-606(3)</a>
Tuesday, February 17	Candidate filing opens – 8:00 a.m.	No sooner than 105 days before the election <a href="#">13-10-201(7)</a> ; <a href="#">13-1-403(1,2)</a> ; <a href="#">13-1-502(1,2)</a> , <a href="#">HB 207</a>
Monday, February 23*	Deadline for the county governing body to pass a resolution to change precinct boundaries.	Not within 100 days before any primary or between a general and primary election <a href="#">13-13-102</a>
Friday, February 27	Deadline for the Secretary of State to receive verified new political party qualification petitions from county election administrators.	At least 95 days before the primary <a href="#">13-10-609(2)</a>
Wednesday, March 4	Candidate filing closes – 5:00 p.m. DEADLINE.  Candidate filing closes for write-in candidates for the primary – 5:00 p.m. DEADLINE.  Last day for candidates to withdraw from the primary election – 5:00 p.m. Deadline.	No sooner than 90 days before the election <a href="#">13-10-201(7)</a> ; <a href="#">13-1-403(1,2)</a> ; <a href="#">13-1-502(1,2)</a> ; <a href="#">13-10-211(1)</a> <a href="#">HB 207</a> A candidate may not withdraw after the filing deadline <a href="#">13-10-325(1)(b)</a>
Monday, March 9	Deadline for governing bodies to call for a local government election to be held on the date of the primary election	No sooner than 85 days after a resolution calling for an election. <a href="#">13-1-405</a>

<b>Within 5 days of filing for office</b>	Candidates file appropriate campaign paperwork with the Commissioner of Political Practices.	Within 5 days of filing for office <a href="#">13-37-201(2)</a>
<b>Thursday, March 12</b>	Deadline for the Commissioner of Political Practices to notify the Secretary of State and election administrators of the names of any candidates whose names may not appear on the official ballot because they have not complied with the provisions of MCA Title 13, Chapter 37.	2 calendar days before the certification deadline <a href="#">13-37-126(5)(b)(i)</a>
<b>Monday, March 16*</b>	Deadline for the Secretary of State to certify for the ballot the names and designations of statewide and state district candidates to election administrators; deadline for election administrators to certify for the ballot the names of local candidates and local ballot issues.	10 days after the close of candidate filing <a href="#">13-10-208</a>
<b>By Monday, March 16*</b>	<p>If an election administrator determines a local primary election is unnecessary, they shall notify the governing body in writing. The governing body may cancel the election by resolution.</p> <p>If the governing body decides that a local nonpartisan election must be held, they must require it by resolution.</p> <p>An election administrator may give notice that a party's precinct committee election will not be held in that precinct by this date.</p>	<a href="#">13-1-403(4)</a>  Not more than 10 days after the close of candidate filing <a href="#">13-14-115(3)</a>  <a href="#">13-38-201(4)(a)</a>
<b>No earlier than Monday, April 6</b>	Election administrators must publish or broadcast a notice specifying the day regular voter registration will close and the availability of late registration. (Three times in the four weeks preceding the close of regular registration on May 4, 2026.)	3 times in the four weeks preceding the close of regular registration. (May 4, 2026) <a href="#">13-2-301(1)(b)</a>
<b>Friday, April 17</b>	Election administrators must send ballots to absent military and overseas electors as soon as the ballot is printed and no later than this date.	As soon as ballot is printed but not later than 45 days in advance of the election. <a href="#">13-13-205(2)</a> Not later than the business day preceding the 45th day <a href="#">13-21-224</a>

Friday, April 17	County central committees of parties eligible to nominate candidates in the primary election submit to the election administrators lists of electors to serve as election judges.	At least 45 days before the election. <a href="#">13-4-102</a>
Sunday, May 3	Date by which legislative candidates must be a resident in the appropriate county, if it contains one or more districts, or a legislative district, if it contains all or parts of more than one county (For six months next preceding the General Election).	For six months preceding the general election. <a href="#">Article V, Part V, Sect. 4 MT Const.</a>
Monday, May 4*	Close of regular voter registration. (Registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration.)	For 30 days before any election <a href="#">13-2-301</a>
	Absentee ballots must be available 30 days prior to election day for absentee voting in person.	30 days prior to election day. <a href="#">13-13-205</a>
	Beginning of the period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each type of voting system used in an election is performing properly. Reminder: An election administrator shall test all central count vote tabulation machines to be used if automatic tabulation begins pursuant to 13-13-241(7)(a), the day before the election.	No more than 30 days prior to an election <a href="#">13-17-212</a>
	Deadline for county governing body to designate the polling place for each precinct and to appoint three or more election judges for each precinct, one of whom must be designated chief judge.	No later than 30 days before a primary election <a href="#">13-3-105</a> <a href="#">13-4-101</a>
Tuesday, May 5	Late Registration begins – Primary Election  During late registration, those wishing to register or change their voter information and vote in this federal election may only do so before 5:00 p.m. on Friday before the election, Saturday before the election, or before noon on election day.  To vote in the election, late registrants must obtain their ballot in person from the location designated by the county election administrator.	After the close of regular registration <a href="#">13-2-304</a> <a href="#">SB 490</a>

Thursday, May 7	Registration forms postmarked by May 4 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration.	For 3 days after regular registration is closed <a href="#">13-2-301(3)</a>
Friday, May 8	Date ballots are mailed to electors on the absentee list.	25 days prior to election day <a href="#">13-13-205</a> <a href="#">13-13-214</a>
Prior to the Primary Election	Any election judge serving in the 2026 elections must attend training and obtain a certificate of completion. A certificate is current if obtained prior to the primary election in an even-numbered year	Before each election <a href="#">13-4-203</a>
	The county governing body appoints at least three individuals to serve on the county post-election audit committee.	Prior to each federal election <a href="#">13-17-504</a>
Thursday, May 14	Deadline for election administrators to enter into the statewide voter registration system all voter registration applications received by the regular registration deadline.	No later than five working days after the regular registration deadline. <a href="#">13-2-115</a>
After May 14	Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list.	<a href="#">13-2-115(2)</a>
May 21 – May 31 (Thursday-Sunday)	Election administrators must publish or broadcast: a diagram showing a voting system used by voters and a sample of the ballot layout (in newspaper only), a statement of the locations where voting systems to be used by voters are on public exhibition, and instructions on how to vote.	Not more than 12 or less than 2 days before an election <a href="#">13-17-203</a> <a href="#">SB 115</a>
	Election administrators must publish or broadcast a notice indicating the method that will be used for counting absentee ballots and the place and time that the absentee ballots will be counted on election day.	Not more than 12 days or less than 2 days before an election <a href="#">13-15-105</a> , <a href="#">SB 115</a> , <a href="#">13-15-206</a> <a href="#">13-15-207</a>
May 23-May 29 (Saturday-Friday)	Election administrators must publish, or broadcast locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place.	Not more than 10 days or less than two business days before an election <a href="#">13-3-105(2)</a> <a href="#">13-3-207</a>

<b>Tuesday, May 26*</b>	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to submit signed petitions to county election administrators.	One week before the deadline for filing <a href="#">13-10-503(1)</a> .
<b>Thursday, May 28</b>	Election administrators in counties with 8,000 or more registered electors or 5,000 or more absentee electors may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots.	Not sooner than three business days before election day <a href="#">13-13-241(7)</a>
<b>Friday, May 29</b>	Beginning of period for printing of primary election precinct register.	Friday before each election <a href="#">13-2-116</a>
	After 5:00 p.m. - Beginning of period for qualified electors who are prevented from voting at the polls as a result of illness or health emergency, occurring between 5:00 p.m. of the Friday before the election and before the close of polls on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot.	Friday preceding the election and before the close of polls on election day <a href="#">13-13-211(2)</a> , <a href="#">13-13-212(2)</a>
<b>Before Friday, May 29 (May 5 to May 29)</b>	On these dates, electors may register or change their registration information and vote in this federal election if they obtain their ballot in person from the location designated by the county election administrator.	Prior to the close of business on the Friday before the election <a href="#">13-2-304</a> <a href="#">SB 490</a>
<b>Saturday, May 30 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b>		Saturday before the election. <a href="#">13-2-304</a> <a href="#">SB 490</a>
<b>Monday, June 1 (Continued on next page)</b>	Polling place voters wishing to obtain a one-time absentee ballot must apply before noon on the day before the election and receive the ballot in person. (Except as provided in <a href="#">13-13-211(2)</a> )	Before noon on the day before the election. <a href="#">13-13-211</a>
	Election administrators print supplemental precinct registers.	Administrative Procedure
	No late registrations or changes to voter information are processed today. Electors who wish to register or change their voter information and vote in this federal election may do so before noon on election day.	<a href="#">13-2-304</a> <a href="#">SB 490</a>
	Election administrators may opt to conduct early preparation of absentee ballots beginning at the time set in the public notice.	1 day before election day <a href="#">13-13-241</a> ; <a href="#">ARM 44.3.2204</a>
	Automatic tabulation using a vote-counting machine of absentee ballots may begin. An election administrator shall test all central count vote tabulation machines to be used if automatic tabulation begins pursuant to 13-13-241(7)(a), the day before the election. (Tabulation by manual count may not begin until election day.)	The day before the election <a href="#">13-13-241</a> , <a href="#">13-15-104</a> , <a href="#">13-15-207</a> <a href="#">13-17-212</a>

<b>Monday, June 1 (cont.)</b>	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to file Declaration of Intent for office; deadline for Secretary of State to receive independent and minor party candidate petitions from county election administrators.	Before the scheduled primary <a href="#">13-10-503</a>
<b>Tuesday, June 2</b>	<b>PRIMARY ELECTION</b>	First Tuesday after the first Monday in June <a href="#">13-1-107</a>
	7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Polls are open.  At least noon to 8:00 p.m. – Polling places with less than a net of 400 registered voters (Registered minus Absentee) may open after 7:00 a.m. but must open no later than noon.	Polling places must be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fewer than 400, from at least noon to 8 p.m. <a href="#">13-1-106</a>
	Noon: Deadline to register or change voter information and vote in this election. Late registrants must obtain their ballot in person from the location designated by the county election administrator.	Prior to noon on the day of the election <a href="#">13-2-304(3)</a> <a href="#">SB 490</a>
	Election administrators must randomly test and certify 10% of each type of voting system (a minimum of one per county) to validate the accuracy of voted paper ballots with the voting system results.	On election day <a href="#">ARM 44.3.1713</a>
	Tabulation using a manual count begins.	Election day <a href="#">13-13-241(7)</a>
	8:00 p.m. - End of period for qualified electors who are prevented from voting at the polls as a result of illness or health emergency, occurring between 5:00 p.m. of the Friday before the election and before the close of polls on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot.	Before the close of polls on election day <a href="#">13-13-211(2)</a> <a href="#">13-13-212(2)</a>
	8:00 p.m. – Polls close	Polling places must be open until 8 p.m. <a href="#">13-1-106</a>
	5:00 p.m. – Deadline for registrants who voted a provisional ballot to provide proof of registration or required identification. (Information may also be mailed to the county election office by the day after the election but must be received by 3 p.m. on the sixth day after the election.)	Until 5 p.m. the day after the election <a href="#">13-15-107</a>
<b>June 3-8 (Wednesday to Monday)</b>	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots.	<a href="#">13-15-301(2)</a>

<b>Monday, June 8, After 3:00 pm</b>	<b>3:00 p.m. – Counting of provisional ballots that are not resolved by the end of election day may not begin prior to this date and time.</b>	<b>The sixth day after the election</b> <a href="#"><u>13-15-107(8)</u></a>
	<b>3:00 p.m. – Deadline for election administrators to receive Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs) sent by 8:00 p.m. on election day.</b>	<b>3 pm on the Monday following the election</b> <a href="#"><u>13-21-206</u></a>
	<b>3:00 p.m. – Counting of electronically submitted ballots that were sent by absent military and overseas electors by 8:00 p.m. on election day and received by 5:00 p.m. the day after the election.</b>	<b>Counted at the same time as provisional ballots are counted.</b> <a href="#"><u>13-21-226(2)</u></a>
<b>Tuesday, June 9</b>	<b>Meeting of the State Board of Canvassers to randomly choose races, ballot issues, and precincts to be audited for the post-election audit.</b>	<b>No sooner than 7 days and no later than 9 days after the election.</b> <a href="#"><u>13-17-505</u></a>
<b>June 10-15 (Wednesday to Monday)</b>	<b>Post-election audits are conducted by counties (after notification by the State Board of Canvassers of races, ballot issues, and precincts chosen).</b>	<b>After unofficial results are available to the public in a federal election, but before the official canvass</b> <a href="#"><u>13-17-503</u></a> <b>At least 1 day before the official canvass by the county board of canvassers.</b>
<b>Tuesday, June 16</b>	<b>Deadline for the county election administrator to submit the reconciliation of election results spreadsheet required by SB 440 to the Secretary of State.</b>  <b>Deadline for the reconciliation spreadsheet to be posted to the county election website in a place accessible to all members of the public.</b>	<b>No later than when the board of county canvassers meets as provided in 13-15-401.</b> <a href="#"><u>SB 440(4)(a) and SB 440(2)</u></a> <a href="#"><u>13-15-201(3)</u></a> <a href="#"><u>SB 57</u></a>
<b>By June 16 (Earliest day: At least 1 day after post-election audit)</b>	<b>County canvass completed – Canvass Board declares nominated the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each county-certified office and proclaims the adoption or rejection of county ballot issues.</b>	<b>Within 14 days after each election</b> <a href="#"><u>13-15-401</u></a> <a href="#"><u>13-15-403</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>SB 57</u></a> <a href="#"><u>13-15-405</u></a>
<b>Friday, June 19</b>	<b>Petition signatures due to election administrators for statewide ballot issues; deadline for withdrawal of statewide ballot issue signatures.</b>	<b>No later than 4 weeks before the final date for filing with the SOS.</b> <a href="#"><u>13-27-301</u></a>



By Monday, June 22	Deadline for the Secretary of State to complete a comprehensive reconciliation report of election results. The report will be submitted to Legislative Services and posted on the SOS website as soon as it is available.	At least 7 days prior to the certification of the election results by the Board of State Canvassers. <a href="#">SB 440 (4)(b); SB 440(5)(a)(b)</a>
After the county canvass is complete	County election administrator issues certificates of nomination to successful local nominees after Commissioner of Political Practices informs county election administrators of candidates' compliance with applicable filing requirements.	<a href="#">13-37-127</a>
When the county canvass is complete	Election administrators send an official canvass of election results to the Secretary of State by certified mail(On the day of, or day after, the county canvass).	<a href="#">13-15-501</a>
Within 5 days of official canvass	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election candidates to initiate contest of primary election nomination after the county or state canvass, as applicable.	<a href="#">13-36-102(1)</a>
	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election candidates to apply for a recount, after the county or state canvass.	<a href="#">13-16-201</a> <a href="#">13-16-211</a> <a href="#">13-16-301</a>
Within 10 days of official canvass	Deadline for successful primary write-in nominees to file a written Declaration of Acceptance after county or state canvass, as applicable.	<a href="#">13-10-204</a>
Monday, June 29 (Scheduled)	Meeting of the State Canvass Board—The Canvass Board declares nominated individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each state-certified office and sends certified copies of the reports and results to the Governor.	Within 27 days of the election or sooner if returns are all received. <a href="#">13-15-502</a> <a href="#">13-15-507</a>
After state canvass is complete	Secretary of State issues certificates of nomination to successful nominees after the Commissioner of Political Practices informs the Secretary of State of candidates' compliance with applicable filing requirements.	<a href="#">13-37-127</a>
Friday, July 17 by 5:00 pm	Deadline for election administrators to file certified ballot issue petitions in the Secretary of State's office. Only signatures on petitions received by this deadline can be tabulated by the Secretary of State.	Third Friday of the fourth month prior to the election. <a href="#">13-27-104</a>
Wednesday, August 5	5:00 p.m. Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election	By 5:00 p.m. on the 90th day before the general election. <a href="#">13-10-211</a> <a href="#">HB 207</a>

<b>Monday, August 10</b>	<b>Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy.</b>	<b>85 days or less before a general election</b> <a href="#"><u>13-10-327(2)</u></a>
<b>Thursday, August 13</b>	<b>Deadline for the Commissioner of Political Practices to notify the Secretary of State and election administrators of the names of any candidates whose names may not appear on the official ballot because they have not complied with the provisions of MCA Title 13, Chapter 37.</b>	<b>7 days before the certification provided in 13-12-201</b> <a href="#"><u>13-37-126(5)(b)(i)</u></a>
<b>Wednesday, August 19</b>	<b>Deadline for political parties to appoint replacement candidates to fill vacancies.</b>	<b>No later than 76 days before the election</b> <a href="#"><u>13-10-327(2)</u></a>
<b>Thursday, August 20</b>	<b>Deadline for the Secretary of State to certify for the ballot the names and designations of statewide and state district candidates and statewide ballot issues to election administrators; deadline for election administrators to certify for the ballot the names of local candidates and local ballot issues.</b>	<b>75 days before a general election</b> <a href="#"><u>13-12-201(1)</u></a>
<b>No earlier than Monday, September 7</b>	<b>Election administrators must publish or broadcast a notice specifying the day regular voter registration will close and the availability of late registration. (Three times in the four weeks preceding the close of regular registration)</b>	<b>3 times in the 4 weeks preceding the close of registration.</b> <a href="#"><u>13-2-301</u></a>
<b>Friday, September 18</b>	<b>Election administrators must send ballots to absentee military and overseas electors as soon as the ballot is printed and by not later than this date.</b>	<b>...as soon as the ballot is printed, but not later than 45 days before the election</b> <a href="#"><u>13-13-205(2)</u></a> <b>If the 45th day before the election falls on a weekend or holiday, not later than the business day preceding the 45th day.</b> <a href="#"><u>13-21-224</u></a>

<b>Monday, October 5*</b>	Close of regular voter registration. (Registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration.)	30 days before any election <a href="#">13-2-301</a>
	Date by which absentee ballots for a polling place election must be available for voting in person	30 days prior to election day <a href="#">13-13-205</a> As soon as the official ballots are available for in-person absentee voting <a href="#">13-13-222</a>
	Beginning of the period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each type of voting system used in an election is performing properly. Reminder: An election administrator shall test all central count vote tabulation machines to be used if automatic tabulation begins pursuant to 13-13-241(7)(a), the day before the election.	30 days prior to an election <a href="#">13-17-212</a>
	Deadline for election administrators to mail the general election voter information pamphlet to voters on the active voter list.	30 days before the election <a href="#">13-27-410(4)</a>
<b>Prior to General Election</b>	County governing body appoints at least 3 individuals to serve on the county post-election audit committee if not already appointed to serve for both the primary and general election.	Prior to each federal election <a href="#">13-17-504</a>
<b>Tuesday, October 6</b>	<b>Late Registration begins – General Election</b>  During late registration, those wishing to register or change their voter information and vote in this federal election may only do so before 5:00 p.m. on Friday before the election, Saturday before the election, or before noon on election day. To vote in the election, late registrants must obtain their ballot in person from the location designated by the county election administrator.	After the close of regular registration <a href="#">13-2-304</a> <a href="#">SB 490</a>
<b>Thursday, October 8</b>	Registration forms postmarked by October 5 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration.	3 days after regular registration is closed <a href="#">13-2-301(3)</a>
<b>Friday, October 9</b>	Date by which ballots are mailed to electors on the absentee list.	25 days prior to the election <a href="#">13-13-205</a> <a href="#">13-13-214</a>

Friday, October 16*	Deadline for election administrators to enter into the statewide voter registration system all voter registration applications received by the regular registration deadline.	No later than 5 working days after the deadline in 13-2-301 <a href="#">13-2-115</a>
After Friday, October 16	The Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list.	<a href="#">13-2-115</a>
October 22 – November 1 (Thursday to Sunday)	Election administrators must publish or broadcast: a diagram showing a voting system used by voters and a sample of the ballot layout (in newspaper only), a statement of the locations where voting systems to be used by voters are on public exhibition, and instructions on how to vote.	Not more than 12 days or less than 2 days before an election <a href="#">13-17-203</a> <a href="#">SB 115</a>
	Election administrators must publish or broadcast a notice indicating the method that will be used for counting absentee ballots and the place and time that the absentee ballots will be counted on election day.	Not more than 12 days or less than 2 days before an election <a href="#">13-15-105</a> <a href="#">13-15-206</a> , <a href="#">13-15-207</a> <a href="#">SB 115</a>
October 24 – October 30 (Saturday to Friday)	Election administrators must publish or broadcast the locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place.	Not more than 10 days or less than 2 business days before an election <a href="#">13-3-105(2)</a> <a href="#">13-3-207</a>
Thursday, October 29	Election administrators in counties with 8,000 or more registered electors or 5,000 or more absentee electors may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots. An election official may not conduct the process on a Saturday or a Sunday.	No sooner than 3 business days before an election <a href="#">13-13-241(7)</a>
Friday, October 30	Beginning of period for printing of general election precinct register.	No sooner than the Friday before each election <a href="#">13-2-116</a>
October 30, after 5 pm and before November 3 (Friday to Tuesday)	After 5:00 p.m. - Beginning of period for qualified electors who are prevented from voting at the polls as a result of illness or health emergency, occurring between 5:00 p.m. of the Friday before the election and before the close of polls on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot.	Between 5 p.m. of the Friday preceding the election and before the close of polls <a href="#">13-13-211(2)</a> , <a href="#">13-13-212(2)</a>

Before Friday, October 30 (October 6 to October 30)	On these dates, electors may register or change their registration information and vote in this federal election if they obtain their ballot in person from the location designated by the county election administrator.	Friday before the election <a href="#">13-2-304</a> , <a href="#">SB 490</a>
Saturday, October 31 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.		Saturday before the election. <a href="#">13-2-304</a> , <a href="#">SB 490</a>
Monday, November 2	Polling place voters wishing to obtain a one-time absentee ballot must apply before noon on the day before the election and receive the ballot in person. (Except as provided in <a href="#">13-13-211(2)</a> )	Before noon on the day before the election <a href="#">13-13-211(1)</a> , <a href="#">13-2-304</a>
	Election administrators print supplemental precinct registers.	Administrative Procedure
	No late registrations or changes to voter information are processed today. Electors who wish to register or change their voter information and vote in this federal election may do so before noon on election day.	<a href="#">13-2-304</a> <a href="#">SB 490</a>
	Election administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots beginning at the time set in the public notice.	1 business day before election day. <a href="#">13-13-241</a> <a href="#">ARM 44.3.2204</a>
	Automatic tabulation using a vote-counting machine of absentee ballots may begin for counties with 8,000 or more registered electors or 5,000 or more absentee electors	Not sooner than 1 day before election day <a href="#">13-13-241</a> <a href="#">13-15-104</a> <a href="#">13-15-207</a> <a href="#">13-17-212</a>
	An election administrator shall test all central count vote tabulation machines to be used if automatic tabulation begins pursuant to <a href="#">13-13-241(7)(a)</a>	The day before the election, before counting begins. <a href="#">ARM 44.3.1713</a>

<b>Tuesday, November 3</b>	<b>GENERAL ELECTION</b>	First Tuesday after the first Monday in November <a href="#">13-1-104(2)</a>
	7:00 a.m. - Polls open <i>*Polling places with less than a net of 400 registered voters (Registered minus Absentee) may open after 7:00 a.m. but must open no later than noon.</i>	Polling places must be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fewer than 400, from at least noon to 8 p.m. <a href="#">13-1-106</a>
	Noon: Deadline to register or change voter information and vote in this election. Late registrants must obtain their ballot in person from the location designated by the county election administrator.	Prior to noon on the day of the election <a href="#">SB 490</a>
	Election administrators must randomly test and certify 10% of each type of voting system, a minimum of one per county, to validate the accuracy of voted paper ballots with the voting system results.	On election day <a href="#">ARM 44.3.1713(1)(f)</a>
	Tabulation using a manual count begins.	Election day <a href="#">13-13-241(7)</a>
	8:00 p.m. End of period for qualified electors who are prevented from voting at the polls as a result of illness or health emergency, occurring between 5:00 p.m. of the Friday before the election and before the close of polls on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot.	Before the close of polls on election day <a href="#">13-13-211(2)</a> <a href="#">13-13-212(2)</a>
	<b>8:00 p.m. - Polls close</b>	Polls must be open until 8 p.m. <a href="#">13-1-106</a>
<b>Wednesday, November 4</b>	5:00 p.m. – Deadline for registrants who voted a provisional ballot to provide proof of registration or required identification. (Information may also be mailed to the county election office by the day after the election but must be received by 3 p.m. on the sixth day after the election.)	Until 5 p.m. the day after the election <a href="#">13-15-107</a>
<b>November 4-9 (Wednesday to Monday)</b>	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots.	<a href="#">13-15-301(2)</a>

Monday, November 9, after 3:00 pm	3:00 p.m. - Counting of provisional ballots that are not resolved by the end of election day may not begin prior to this date and time.	After 3 p.m. on the sixth day after the election <a href="#">13-15-107</a>
	3:00 p.m. - Deadline for election administrators to receive Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs) sent by 8:00 p.m. on election day and received by 3 p.m. on the Monday following the election.	By 3 p.m. on Monday following the election <a href="#">13-21-206</a>
	3:00 p.m. – Counting of electronically submitted ballots that were sent by absent military and overseas electors by 8:00 p.m. on election day and received by 5:00 p.m. the day after the election.	At the same time as provisional ballots are counted <a href="#">13-21-226</a>
Tuesday, November 10	Meeting of the State Board of Canvassers to randomly choose races, ballot issues, and precincts to be audited for the post-election audit.	No sooner than 7 days and no later than 9 days after the federal election <a href="#">13-17-505</a>
November 12-16*	Counties conduct post-election audits after notification by the State Board of Canvassers of races, ballot issues, and precincts chosen.	After unofficial results are available to the public in a federal election, but before the official canvass <a href="#">13-17-503</a> At least 1 day before the official canvass by the county board of canvassers. <a href="#">13-17-506</a>
Tuesday, November 17	Deadline for the county election administrator to submit the reconciliation of election results spreadsheet required by SB 440 to the Secretary of State.  Deadline for the reconciliation spreadsheet to be posted to the county election website in a place accessible to all members of the public.	No later than when the board of county canvassers meets as provided in 13-15-401. <a href="#">SB 440(4)(a) and SB 440(2)</a> <a href="#">13-15-201(3)</a> <a href="#">SB 57</a>
By Tuesday, November 17 (Earliest day: At least 1 day after post-election audit)	County canvass completed – Canvass Board declares elected the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each county-certified office and proclaims the adoption or rejection of county ballot issues.	Within 14 days after each election <a href="#">13-15-401</a> <a href="#">13-15-403</a> , <a href="#">SB 57</a> <a href="#">13-15-405</a>

After the County Canvass is Complete	Election administrators send the official canvass of election results to the Secretary of State by certified mail (On the day of, or day after, the county canvass)	<a href="#">13-15-501</a>
	The county election administrator issues certificates of election to successful local candidates after the Commissioner of Political Practices informs county election administrators of candidates' compliance with applicable filing requirements.	<a href="#">13-37-127</a>
By Monday, November 23	Deadline for the Secretary of State to complete a comprehensive reconciliation report of election results. The report will be submitted to Legislative Services and posted on the SOS website as soon as it is available.	At least 7 days prior to the certification of the election results by the Board of State Canvassers. <a href="#">SB 440(4)(b)</a>
Within 5 days of the official canvass	Deadline for unsuccessful general election candidates to apply for a recount after the county or state canvass.	<a href="#">13-16-201</a> <a href="#">13-16-211</a> <a href="#">13-16-301</a>
Within 10 days of the official canvass	Deadline for successful general write-in candidates to file a written Declaration of Acceptance after county or state canvass, as applicable.	Not later than 10 days after the official canvass <a href="#">13-15-111</a>
Monday, November 30 (Scheduled)	Meeting of the State Canvass Board—The Canvass Board declares elected the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each state-certified office, proclaims the adoption or rejection of statewide ballot issues, and sends certified copies of the reports and results to the Governor and the Legislative Services Division.	Within 27 days of the election, or sooner if all returns are received. <a href="#">13-15-502</a> <a href="#">13-15-507</a>
After state canvass is complete	Secretary of State issues certificates of election to successful candidates after the Commissioner of Political Practices provides notification to the Secretary of State of candidates' compliance with applicable filing requirements.	<a href="#">13-37-127</a> <a href="#">13-27-504</a>
After certificates of election are issued	Secretary of State certifies legislative roster.	<a href="#">5-2-211</a>



# Voter Information

## My Voter Page

Visit the Secretary of State's webpage at [sosmt.gov](https://sosmt.gov) or the [My Voter Page](#):

- Check your voter registration and absentee status.
- Find your polling place\*, including a map with directions to the polling place.

*\*The polling place listed is for the statewide primary/general election. Contact your County Election Administrator to verify polling locations for Municipal Elections.*

## Filing for Office

- A candidate may not file for more than one public office except as outlined in [7-1-205](#), MCA.
- Individuals cannot file as independent or political party candidates for nonpartisan offices.

## Late Registration

- An elector may register or change their voter registration information after the close of regular registration by appearing at the county election office or designated location and registering prior to the Friday before the election by 5:00 p.m., the Saturday before the election from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by noon on Election Day
- Absent military and overseas electors are eligible for late registration; go to <https://sosmt.gov/elections/military-overseas/> for detailed information.

## Polling Places

- Polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. If a polling place has fewer than 400 registered polling place voters, it must open from at least noon to 8:00 p.m. or until all registered voters in any precinct have voted. ([13-1-106](#), MCA). Contact your [county election office](#) for polling locations and hours.

## Accepted forms of identification (ID) at the polling place

- All voters must present ID when voting at the polling place.
- ID can be any **current** photo ID with the voter's name, or if a photo ID is not available, a **current** utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, notice of confirmation of voter registration, government check, or other government document that shows the voter's name and **current** address. For more detailed information visit [votemt.gov/voter-identification/](https://votemt.gov/voter-identification/).

### Provisional Ballots

- Voters whose eligibility or identity cannot be determined can vote a provisional ballot.
- Proof of registration or required identification must be provided to the county election office by 5:00 p.m. the day after the election or mailed to the county election office by the day after the election and received by 3 p.m. on the sixth day after the election.
- Pursuant to [13-15-107](#), MCA, counting provisional ballots that are not resolved by the end of election day may not begin prior to 3:00 p.m. on the sixth day after the election.
- Election officials shall notify each elector who has cast a provisional ballot, by the most expedient means possible, whether the elector's vote was counted, and the reason(s) why or why not.

### Additional Voter Resources

- Contact the [county election office](#) or Secretary of State at [soselections@mt.gov](mailto:soselections@mt.gov) or visit [sosmt.gov](http://sosmt.gov).